

Bird Checklists of the United States

J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge



Sanibel, Florida

Welcome to the J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. The 6,000+ acres of the Refuge contain a variety of subtropical habitats, including the upland ridges and freshwater swales of the island's interior ecosystem as well as the mangrove forest and seagrass beds of its estuarine mangrove fringes. Numerous neotropical migrants and resident birds depend on this variety of habitat for their existence. Refuge managers and biologists are responsible for the management and protection of these valuable habitats. More than half of Sanibel Island is permanently protected either as part of the National Wildlife Refuge (one of approximately five hundred in the United States) or by other private conservation groups.

Favorite birdwatching sites are the J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge (the Bailey Tract, Wildlife Drive, Indigo Trail, and the Shell Mound Trail), the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation properties, the causeway islands, gulf beaches, the lighthouse area and Blind Pass.

Over two-thirds of our nation's land is privately owned and contains some of the most important fish and wildlife habitat in the United States. You can help protect this habitat and contribute to the health of the land and the quality of life by supporting your local conservation efforts. Learn what you can do to promote wildlife usage of your backyard by contacting your local representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

When visiting our nation's public and private lands it is very important that each of us practice and promote ethical behavior while viewing and photographing wildlife. Although visitors may not think their individual actions are harmful to wildlife, the cumulative effect of individual actions can jeopardize an animal's ability to survive. **Above all, Do Not Disturb Feeding, Resting or Nesting Birds, and Please Do Not Litter or Feed Wildlife on the Refuge.**

To learn what you can do to be a more ethical wildlife observer or photographer, ask for information in the visitor center or contact the Refuge Manager.

How to use your checklist

The bird checklist was designed to be informative and simple to use. The list is arranged in the order established by the American Ornithological Union.

This checklist includes 174 species of birds. A list of 63 accidental sightings (seen once or twice during the past 8 years) has also been included. If you should find an unlisted species, please let us know at Refuge Headquarters. We will appreciate your help in updating our records.

Symbols which appear in this checklist represent the following:

Seasonal appearance

Sp - Spring - March to May

S - Summer - June to August

F - Fall - September to November

W - Winter - December to February

Seasonal abundance

a - abundant: a common species which is very numerous

c - common: certain to be seen in suitable habitat

fc - fairly common: present but not always seen

u - uncommon: present but difficult to find

r - rare: seen at irregular intervals

* - known or suspected to have nested on refuge or known to nest locally

LOONS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Common Loon	r	-	r	u
GREBES	Sp	S	F	W
___ Pied-billed Grebe	c	u	fc	c
___ Horned Grebe	r	-	r	r
PELICANS AND ALLIES	Sp	S	F	W
___ American White Pelican	r	-	fc	fc
___ Brown Pelican*	a	a	a	a
___ Double-crested Cormorant*	a	a	a	a
___ Anhinga*	a	a	a	a
___ Magnificent Frigatebird	c	c	c	fc

HERONS, EGRETS AND ALLIES		Sp	S	F	W
___	American Bittern	r	-	r	r
___	Least Bittern*	u	u	u	u
___	Great Blue Heron*	a	a	a	a
___	Great Egret*	a	c	a	a
___	Snowy Egret*	a	c	a	a
___	Little Blue Heron*	a	c	a	a
___	Tricolored Heron*	a	c	a	a
___	Reddish Egret*	fc	fc	fc	fc
___	Cattle Egret*	u	u	u	u
___	Green Heron*	c	c	c	c
___	Black-crowned Night-Heron*	u	u	u	u
___	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*	c	c	c	c
IBISES, SPOONBILL AND STORKS		Sp	S	F	W
___	Glossy Ibis	r	r	r	r
___	White Ibis*	a	a	a	a
___	Roseate Spoonbill	c	c	fc	fc
___	Wood Stork	fc	fc	fc	fc
WATERFOWL		Sp	S	F	W
___	Green-winged Teal	u	-	-	u
___	Mottled Duck*	c	c	c	c
___	Northern Pintail	r	-	r	u
___	Blue-winged Teal*	c	r	u	c
___	Northern Shoveler	r	-	r	u
___	American Wigeon	c	-	r	c
___	Lesser Scaup	r	-	-	r
___	Hooded Merganser	u	-	-	u
___	Red-breasted Merganser	c	-	-	c
VULTURES, HAWKS AND ALLIES		Sp	S	F	W
___	Black Vulture*	c	fc	c	c
___	Turkey Vulture*	a	c	a	a
___	Osprey*	a	a	a	a
___	American Swallow-tailed Kite	r	r	r	r
___	Bald Eagle*	r	r	r	r
___	Northern Harrier	r	-	r	r
___	Sharp-shinned Hawk	r	-	r	r
___	Cooper's Hawk	r	-	-	r
___	Red-shouldered Hawk*	c	c	c	c
___	Broad-winged Hawk	r	-	-	r
___	Red-tailed Hawk	r	-	-	r
___	American Kestrel	r	-	fc	c
___	Merlin	u	-	u	u
___	Peregrine Falcon	r	-	r	r
RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS		Sp	S	F	W
___	Clapper Rail	u	-	-	u
___	King Rail	u	u	u	u
___	Virginia Rail	u	-	-	u
___	Sora	fc	-	-	fc
___	Common Moorhen*	a	a	a	a

___ American Coot	u	-	-	u
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PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES	Sp	S	F	W
___ Black-bellied Plover	c	r	c	c
___ Snowy Plover*	u	-	u	u
___ Wilson's Plover	fc	fc	fc	fc
___ Semipalmated Plover	r	fc	fc	fc
___ Piping Plover	r	r	r	r
___ Killdeer*	c	c	c	c
___ American Oystercatcher*	fc	fc	fc	fc
___ Black-necked Stilt*	fc	fc	-	-
___ Greater Yellowlegs	fc	fc	fc	fc
___ Lesser Yellowlegs	fc	fc	fc	fc
___ Solitary Sandpiper	r	-	r	-
___ Willet	a	c	a	a
___ Spotted Sandpiper	c	r	fc	c
___ Marbled Godwit	r	-	r	r
___ Ruddy Turnstone	c	fc	c	a
___ Red Knot	c	fc	c	a
___ Sanderling	c	fc	c	a
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	r	-
___ Western Sandpiper	c	r	c	c
___ Least Sandpiper	c	r	c	c
___ Dunlin	c	r	r	c
___ Stilt Sandpiper	r	-	-	r
___ Short-billed Dowitcher	c	c	c	c
___ Common Snipe	fc	-	-	fc
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GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Laughing Gull	a	c	a	a
___ Bonaparte's Gull	r	-	-	r
___ Ring-billed Gull	fc	-	r	a
___ Herring Gull	r	-	-	fc
___ Caspian Tern	r	-	-	r
___ Royal Tern	a	fc	a	a
___ Sandwich Tern	c	fc	c	c
___ Forster's Tern	c	-	fc	c
___ Least Tern*	r	c	c	-
___ Black Tern	r	r	r	-
___ Black Skimmer*	fc	fc	fc	fc
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PIGEONS AND DOVES	Sp	S	F	W
___ Eurasian Collared-Dove*	fc	fc	fc	fc
___ Ringed Turtle-Dove	r	r	r	r
___ Mourning Dove*	a	a	a	a
___ Common Ground-Dove*	c	c	c	c
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CUCKOOS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	r	-	-	-
___ Mangrove Cuckoo*	u	u	u	u
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OWLS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Barn Owl*	u	u	u	u
___ Eastern Screech-Owl*	fc	fc	fc	fc
___ Great Horned Owl*	fc	fc	fc	fc
GOATSUCKERS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Common Nighthawk	fc	fc	fc	-
___ Chuck-will's-widow*	fc	fc	fc	-
___ Whip-poor-will	r	-	r	r
SWIFTS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Chimney Swift	fc	fc	fc	-
HUMMINGBIRDS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird	fc	-	-	-
KINGFISHERS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Belted Kingfisher	u	u	c	c
WOODPECKERS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	a	a	a	a
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	u	-	-	u
___ Downy Woodpecker	u	u	u	fc
___ Northern Flicker*	c	c	c	c
___ Pileated Woodpecker*	c	c	c	c
FLYCATCHERS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Eastern Phoebe	u	-	u	fc
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	c	fc	fc	c
___ Western Kingbird	r	-	-	r
___ Eastern Kingbird	r	-	r	r
___ Gray Kingbird*	c	c	c	-
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	r	-	-	r
MARTINS AND SWALLOWS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Purple Martin	u	u	r	u
___ Tree Swallow	u	-	u	u
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	u	u	u
___ Bank Swallow	r	-	-	-
___ Barn Swallow	fc	fc	fc	r
JAYS AND CROWS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Blue Jay*	u	u	u	u

___ American Crow	-	-	-	r
___ Fish Crow*	a	a	a	a
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WRENS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Carolina Wren*	fc	fc	fc	fc
___ House Wren	r	r	-	-
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GNATCATCHERS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	u	-	fc	fc
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THRUSHES	Sp	S	F	W
___ American Robin	-	-	-	fc
___ Swainson's Thrush	r	-	-	-
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	r	-	-	-
___ Veery	r	-	-	-
___ Wood Thrush	r	-	-	-
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MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS AND ALLIES	Sp	S	F	W
___ Gray Catbird	fc	-	fc	c
___ Northern Mockingbird*	a	a	a	a
___ Brown Thrasher*	u	u	u	u
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WAXWINGS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Cedar Waxwing	fc	-	-	fc
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STARLINGS	Sp	S	F	W
___ European Starling*	a	a	a	a
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VIREOS	Sp	S	F	W
___ White-eyed Vireo*	fc	fc	fc	fc
___ Solitary Vireo	r	-	-	r
___ Red-eyed Vireo	r	-	-	-
___ Black-whiskered Vireo*	fc	fc	-	-
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WARBLERS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Orange-crowned Warbler	r	-	-	r
___ Nashville Warbler	r	-	-	-
___ Tennessee Warbler	r	-	-	-
___ Golden-winged Warbler	r	-	-	-
___ Blue-winged Warbler	r	-	-	-
___ Northern Parula	u	-	r	-
___ Yellow Warbler	u	-	r	-
___ Magnolia Warbler	r	-	-	-
___ Black-throated Green Warbler	u	-	-	-

___ Cape May Warbler	u	-	-	-
___ Black-throated Blue Warbler	u	-	-	-
___ Yellow-rumped Warbler	fc	-	fc	c
___ Blackburnian Warbler	r	-	r	-
___ Yellow-throated Warbler	fc	-	fc	fc
___ Prairie Warbler*	fc	fc	fc	fc
___ Palm Warbler	c	-	c	c
___ Blackpoll Warbler	u	-	-	-
___ Black-and-white Warbler	fc	-	fc	fc
___ American Redstart	u	-	r	-
___ Prothonotary Warbler	u	-	-	-
___ Bay-breasted Warbler	r	-	-	-
___ Worm-eating Warbler	u	-	-	r
___ Ovenbird	u	-	u	u
___ Northern Waterthrush	u	-	-	-
___ Louisiana Waterthrush	r	-	-	-
___ Common Yellowthroat*	fc	fc	fc	fc
___ Hooded Warbler	u	-	r	-
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TANAGERS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Summer Tanager	r	-	r	-
___ Scarlet Tanager	r	-	r	-
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NEW WORLD FINCHES	Sp	S	F	W
___ Northern Cardinal*	c	c	c	c
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak	u	-	-	-
___ Blue Grosbeak	fc	-	-	-
___ Indigo Bunting	fc	-	-	-
___ Painted Bunting	u	-	r	-
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SPARROWS	Sp	S	F	W
___ Rufous-sided Towhee*	fc	fc	fc	fc
___ Swamp Sparrow	u	-	r	r
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BLACKBIRDS, GRACKLES, COWBIRDS AND ORIOLES	Sp	S	F	W
___ Bobolink	u	-	-	-
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	a	a	a	a
___ Boat-tailed Grackle*	a	a	a	a
___ Common Grackle*	c	c	c	c
___ Shiny Cowbird	r	r	-	-
___ Brown-headed Cowbird	u	u	u	u
___ Orchard Oriole	r	-	-	-
___ Northern Oriole	r	-	-	-
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NORTHERN FINCHES	Sp	S	F	W
___ American Goldfinch	-	-	-	fc
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OLD WORLD SPARROWS	Sp	S	F	W

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Northern Gannet	Monk Parakeet
Greater Flamingo	Green Parakeet
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Canary-winged Parakeet
Wood Duck	Rose-ringed Parakeet
Mallard	Black-billed Cuckoo
Snow Goose	Smooth-billed Ani
Gadwall	Barred Owl
Eurasian Wigeon	Short-eared Owl
Canvasback	Red-headed Woodpecker
Redhead	Hairy Woodpecker
Ring-necked Duck	Vermilion Flycatcher
Bufflehead	Sedge Wren
Ruddy Duck	Marsh Wren
Swainson's Hawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Black Rail	Eastern Bluebird
Purple Gallinule	Swainson's Thrush
Limpkin	Loggerhead Shrike
Sandhill Crane	Yellow-throated Vireo
American Avocet	Philadelphia Vireo
Whimbrel	Chestnut-sided Warbler
White-rumped Sandpiper	Pine Warbler
Parasitic Jaeger	Kentucky Warbler
Pectoral Sandpiper	Wilson's Warbler
Common Black-headed Gull	Yellow-breasted Chat
Great Black-backed Gull	Savannah Sparrow
Gull-billed Tern	Eastern Meadowlark
Roseate Tern	
Common Tern	
White-winged Dove	
Rock Dove	
White-crowned Pigeon	

Take care not to disturb nesting birds, exposing eggs and young to extreme temperatures and predation.

Do not litter. Many birds die when they become entangled in fishing lines, 6-pack rings, and other trash, or when they mistake garbage for food.

Refuge Manager
J.N. "Ding" Darling NWR

#1 Wildlife Drive
Sanibel, Florida 33957
Telephone: 813/472-1100

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